

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

July 8, 2008

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO SENATE BILL NO. 2663

Honorable Members
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill No. 2663, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board."

The stated purpose of this bill is to increase the number of teachers on the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board, define who may nominate members to and serve on the Board, and require the Board to report its expenditures and income.

This bill is objectionable because it curtails the pool of qualified entities that may nominate persons to serve on the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board and prescribes a composition that would likely decrease the representation of neighbor islands on this important body.

The Hawaii Teacher Standards Board plays an important role in setting standards for and licensing teachers in the State of Hawaii. Current law allows the Governor to nominate members from lists provided by departments, agencies, and organizations that represent the constituents of the Board. This is appropriate and has resulted in a pool of candidates that come from a cross-section of educational facilities within the State.

This bill would prescribe and limit the organizations that can nominate persons for my consideration, effectively banning nominees from parent-teacher associations, school

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community councils, the Charter School Administrative Office, the University of Hawaii, and national organizations that are working diligently to improve the quality of teachers in Hawaii, such as Teach for America.

Further, this bill requires that the composition of the membership of the Board be proportionate to the teachers and administrators who work on each island. Currently, 31% of the Teacher Standards Board members represent neighbor islands, and I have worked hard to nominate persons representing all islands, including Lanai and Molokai. This bill would make the Board more Oahu-centric, thus decreasing the important voice of teachers who work in rural locations or deal with non-urban school challenges.

For the foregoing reason, I am returning Senate Bill No. 2663 without my approval.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Lingle", written in a cursive style.

LINDA LINGLE
Governor of Hawaii